



Legal Avenues

Your Road to Solutions

Health Care Reform Resources

The way Americans procure health insurance will change dramatically during the next couple of years. There are resources available online and in print that explain the changes and can aid attorneys in preparing their clients for the new health care environment.

In 2014, for the first time, Americans will be required to have a specific level of health coverage. Health care exchanges, accessible online, provide information about various health care coverage plans. At these exchanges individuals and small businesses can enroll in health insurance plans. Ohioans will be using the federal exchange at HealthCare.gov. The HealthCare.gov site is divided into areas for small businesses and individuals/families. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services provide preformatted brochures and articles at marketplace.cms.gov¹ which explain the new health insurance marketplace.

The Stark County Law Library has resources which describe in detail the new health insurance requirements for employers. The library recently purchased *PPC's Guide to Health Care Reform*. It discusses coverage mandates for employers and individuals as well as reporting requirements and penalties for noncompliance. It also includes sample client letters, forms, checklists and worksheets to assist with determining tax credits. Additional items the law library has in print are: *Health and Welfare Benefit Plans*, which includes a section on employer compliance, and *2010 Tax Legislation: Patient Protection and Affordable Care, Health Care Reconciliation, HIRE and Other Recent Tax Acts*.

CCH Intelliconnect is an online resource in the library that offers "Smart Charts," which include a cal-

endar with the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA) effective dates and have links to related regulations. Intelli-connect also provides access to the *Medicare and Medicaid Guide*.

On the Internet, [HealthReformGPS](http://HealthReformGPS.org)² provides detailed information in the form of implementation briefs and summaries of new federal agency rules and regulations related to the ACA. The library section of the site contains the text of the related health care legislation, legislative history, executive reports, Congressional reports and news updates from various foundations and news outlets. It is a project of George Washington University's Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Another online resource is the UCLA School of Law's guide to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,³ which has an overview of the law, related regulations, proposed legislation and news articles.

A July 2012 online "[Health Reform Alert](#)" from the firm of Burr Forman analyzes of the impact of the act on employers, providers and taxpayers.⁴

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has a site dedicated to explaining health care reform and providing updates on regulations.⁵ It includes informative timelines and fact sheets.

The provisions of health care reform that will affect large businesses with fifty or more employees are summarized on the Small Business Administration's website.⁶

For a discussion of the most current issues related to health care reform, check the Health Law Professor Blog.⁷ It includes links to in-depth articles and postings about cases related to the ACA.

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Footnotes

¹<http://marketplace.cms.gov/getofficialresources/publications-and-articles/publications-and-articles.html>

²<http://www.healthreformgps.org>

³<http://libguides.law.ucla.edu/ppaca>

⁴<http://www.burr.com/x734/HealthReformBillSummary712.pdf>

⁵<http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/>

⁶<http://www.sba.gov/content/employers-with-50-or-more-employees>

⁷http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/healthlawprof_blog/

Active links to the resources listed in this article are available on the Stark County Law Library's website at:
www.starklawlibrary.org